Utilization of MG Rails

2176. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how the usual metre gauge rails are utilized on conversion into broad gauge; and

(b) whether it would be feasible to utilize the metre gauge rail lines, alongwith broad gauge line, wherever double track broad gauge lines are not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Released metre gauge rails from gauge conversion are utilised for casual renewals/other works, if found fit. Rest are auctioned off as scrap.

Modernisation of Railways in Bihar

†2177. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing, time bound projects for modernization of Railways in Bihar;

(b) whether the Fatua-Islampur railway modernization project is also a time-bound project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya and Koderma-Tilaiya new line projects are targeted for completion by 2005-06. Restoration of Fatua-Islampur and Duraunda-Maharajganj lines to Broad Gauge are likely to be completed during 2002-03. Further, the electrification of Patna- Gaya section is targeted for completion by March, 2004.

(b) and (c) Restoration of Fatua-Islampur railway line to Broad Gauge has been taken up and is likely to be completed by 2002-03. Work of new line from Dhaniawan to Barbigha *via* Bihar Sharif has been approved as a material modification to the project and is being progressed as per availability of resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.